

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17634 01 OF 02 062032Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W  
-----070401 062107Z /66

R 061622Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5326  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 17634

USSALTTWO ALSO FOR MISSION

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, UR, US  
SUBJECT: ARMS TRANSFERS: SOVIETS PROTEST BURT ARTICLE AND STATE  
"CONFIRMATION" OF IT

SUMMARY: MFA DEC. 2 MADE AN "ORAL STATEMENT" PROTESTING  
THE LEAK OF INFORMATION AND THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN NEW YORK  
TIMES RICHARD BURT ARTICLE ON NOV. 25. THEY ALSO PROTESTED THE "CON-  
FIRMATION" OF THE ARTICLE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN,  
SAYING THAT THE ARTICLE AND ITS "CONFIRMATION" COULD NOT  
HELP THE TALKS. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT USG DOES NOT SANCTION  
LEAKS, DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPINIONS IN THE  
U.S. PRESS AND DID NOT "CONFIRM" BURT ARTICLE, BUT ONLY  
THE FACT THAT PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR ARMS TRANSFERS TALKS TO  
BEGIN. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOV. 30 THE ACTING CHIEF OF MFA'S USA  
DIVISION, V.G. KOMPLEKTOV, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17634 01 OF 02 062032Z

INFORMALLY AT AN AIRPORT MEETING THAT MFA WAS UPSET  
ABOUT AN ARTICLE BASED ON "LEAKED " INFORMATION ON  
THE ARMS TRANSFER TALKS WHICH WAS CARRIED IN THE  
EMBASSY DAILY NEWS BULLETIN. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED  
PUZZLEMENT AT PRECISELY WHAT MFA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT,  
THE "LEAK", THE ARTICLE, OR THE BULLETIN'S REPORT  
OF IT.

2. ON DEC. 2 EMBOFF WAS CALLED IN BY USA DIVISION FIRST SECRETARIES V.I. KUZNETSOV AND P.D. PAVLOV WHO FORMALLY PROTESTED BOTH THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY RICHARD BURT, DATED NOV. 25 AND CARRIED IN THE WIRELESS FILE NOV. 25. THEY ALSO PROTESTED THE "CONFIRMATION" OF THE ARTICLE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN (CARRIED IN THE NOV. 26 WIRELESS FILE AND REPEATED IN THE EMBASSY BULLETIN ON NOV. 28.: "RESTON CONFIRMED A STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ANNOUNCING PLANS FOR DISCUSSIONS BEGINNING IN MID-DECEMBER BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION ON LIMITING CONVENTIONAL ARMS SALES TO THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAID THE MEETINGS WERE THE RESULT OF "CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS DATING FROM THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN MARCH.")

3. FOLLOWING IS VIRTUAL VERBATIM TEXT OF ORAL STATEMENT (A COPY OF WHICH WAS NOT SHOWN TO EMBOFF): BEGIN TEXT: THE MINISTRY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE RECENT ARTICLE OF R. BURT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES WHICH CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE FORTHCOMING "OFFICIAL" SOVIET-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON IN MID-DECEMBER ON LIMITING INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. THE MINISTRY NOTES AS WELL THE CONFIRMATION OF THIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17634 01 OF 02 062032Z

ARTICLE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS REPORTED IN THE EMBASSY BULLETIN. AS FAR AS ONE CAN DETERMINE FROM THE ARTICLE IT WAS PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM WELL-INFORMED SOURCES. ADDITIONALLY ONE CANNOT FAIL TO NOTE THE TENDENTIOUS INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATIONS IN THIS ARTICLE.

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17634 02 OF 02 062026Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 17634

USSALTTWO ALSO FOR MISSION

4. SUCH ONE-SIDED INTERPRETATIONS BY THE AMERICAN PRESS OF THE FACT AND THE NATURE OF THE FORTHCOMING PRELIMINARY TALKS OF THE SOVIET AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES ON THE QUESTION OF LIMITING THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE CAN IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTE TO A NORMAL DIALOGUE ON THIS PROBLEM. END TEXT.

5. EMBOFF MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO KUZNETSOV AND PAVLOV, STRESSING THAT OBVIOUSLY HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS.

-- THE USG DOES NOT SANCTION ANY UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY AT TIMES OCCUR. HOWEVER, EMBOFF SAID, HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BURT ARTICLE OR WITH HOW BURT OBTAINED HIS INFORMATION.

-- THE USG COULD NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17634 02 OF 02 062026Z

COMMENTS AND VIEWS WHICH BURT EXPRESSED IN HIS ARTICLE. IN THE U.S. THE PRESS IS FRE TO PRINT ANY OPINIONS AND VIEWS IT WISHES.

-- IT IS INCORRECT TO ASSUME, AS THE SOVIET STATEMENT DOES, THAT THE COMMENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN CONSTITUTED "CONFIRMATION" OF THE ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY OR OF ANY OF THE OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE BURT PIECE. IT CONSTITUTED ONLY CONFIRMATION OF THE PLANS FOR THE TALKS TO BEGIN IN MID-DECEMBER, NOTHING MORE.

6. KUZNETSOV RESPONDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO

REFUTE THE CONTENTS OF THE STORY AND NOT GIVE  
"CONFIRMATION" OF IT. EMBOFF REPEATED HIS POINT ABOUT  
WHAT WAS BEING CONFIRMED AND SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THE  
PRACTICE OF THE SPOKESMAN TO REFUTE OPINIONS AND VIEWS.  
IN CLOSING KUZNETSOV SAID HE HOPED THAT THE STATEMENT  
OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD UNDERLINE THE CON-  
CERN WHICH IT ATTACHES TO THIS "LEAK" WHICH HE SAID  
WAS ONE OF A SERIES OF RECENT LEAKS IN THE ARMS  
CONTROL AREA, OTHER SERIOUS ONES BEING IN THE AREA OF SALT.  
THERE WAS, HE SAID POINTEDLY, AN AGREEMENT  
ABOUT HAVING AGREED PRESS RELEASES CONCERNING THESE  
ARMS TRANSFERS TALKS. EMBOFF PROMISED TO CONVEY THE  
MFA STATEMENT TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN  
WASHINGTON.

7. COMMENT: THIS EPISODE INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS TAKE SERIOUSLY  
THE AGREEMENTS ON THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF PLANS TO MEET TO DISCUSS  
THESE ARMS CONTROL TOPICS AND THAT THEY DO NOT LIKE  
TO SEE THE DATES REVEALED IN ADVANCE OF THE AGREED RELEASE. WE  
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17634 02 OF 02 062026Z

MADE NO PROMISE TO REPLY FURTHER TO THE SOVIET DEMARCHE AND WE DO  
NOT PLAN TO UNLESS DEPARTMENT WISHES IT.  
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## Message Attributes

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